

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 12-57 are pending in the application, with claims 12, 18, and 25 being the independent claims. Claims 12-31 and 39-49 are sought to be amended. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute similar or broader claims, with respect to the amended claims, in the future. New claims 50-57 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

With respect to this Application, Applicants hereby rescind any disclaimer of claim scope made in the parent application or any predecessor or related application. The Examiner is advised that any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, and the references that it was made to allegedly avoid, may need to be revisited. Nor should any previous disclaimer of claim scope, if any, in this Application be read back into any predecessor or related application.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 12, 15, 16, 18-20, 25-27, and 31-49

Claims 12, 15, 16, 18-20, 25-27, and 31-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over United States Patent Publication No. 2003/0120791 to Weber et al. (herein "Weber") in view of United States Patent

Publication No. 2002/0163924 to Kim et al. (herein "Kim"). Without acquiescing to the merits of the aforementioned allegation, Applicants have:

1. Amended independent claim 12 to recite at least the feature of "*a plurality of ports including serial ports and parallel ports... said plurality of ports being arranged on said substrate in a rotational symmetric layout*";
2. Amended independent claim 18 to recite at least the feature of "*a plurality of ports... each port including a plurality of programmable pads, said plurality of pads being arranged on a substrate in a rotational symmetric layout*"; and
3. Amended independent claim 25 to recite at least the feature of "*a plurality of ports including serial ports and parallel ports... said plurality of ports being arranged on said substrate in a rotational symmetric layout*".

Applicants respectfully submits that Weber and Kim, alone or in combination, does not teach or suggest at least these features as recited by independent claims 12, 18, and 25. Therefore, the combination of Weber and Kim does not render independent claims 12, 18, and 25 obvious. Dependent claims 15, 16, 19, 20, 26-27, and 31-49 are likewise not rendered obvious by the combination of Weber and Kim for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 12, 15, 16, 18-20, 25-27, and 31-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 17, 21, and 28

Claims 17, 21, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber in view of Kim and in further view of United States Patent

Publication No. 2003/0172332 to Rearick (herein "Rearick"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and provide the following arguments to support patentability.

As discussed above, the combination of Weber and Kim does not teach or suggest each and every feature of independent claims 12 and 18. Rearick does not provide the missing teachings or suggestions with respect to independent claims 12 and 18, nor does the Office Action dated May 29, 2009 (herein "Office Action") so allege. Thus, the combination of Weber, Kim, and Rearick does not render obvious independent claims 12 and 18. Dependent claims 17, 21, and 28 are likewise not rendered obvious by the combination of Weber, Kim, and Rearick for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they respectively depend and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 17, 21, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 13, 22-24, 29, and 30

Claims 13, 22-24, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weber in view of Kim and in further view of United States Patent Publication No. 2003/0172332 to Taniguchi (herein "Taniguchi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and provide the following arguments to support patentability.

As discussed above, the combination of Weber and Kim does not teach or suggest each and every feature of independent claims 12, 18, and 25. Taniguchi does not provide the missing teachings or suggestions with respect to independent claims 12, 18, and 25, nor does the Office Action so allege. Thus, the combination of Weber, Kim, and Taniguchi does not render obvious independent claims 12, 18, and 25. Dependent claims

13, 22-24, 29, and 30 are likewise not rendered obvious by the combination of Weber, Kim, and Taniguchi for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they respectively depend and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 13, 22-24, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

New claims

Claims 50-57

New claims 50-57 have been added. From the discussion above, Applicants have traversed the rejections to independent claims 12, 18, and 25. Dependent claims 50-57 are likewise allowable for the same reasons as the independent claims from which they respectively depend and further in view of their own respective features.

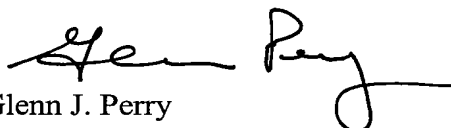
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Glenn J. Perry
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,458

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1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600
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